

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing below of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): A support bracket in accordance with claim 9, wherein the first leg includes at least two first bores spaced from each other along the first leg and extending through the first leg.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A support bracket in accordance with claim 9, wherein the at least one second bore is a blind bore.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A support bracket in accordance with claim 9, wherein the engagement means is a hook member that is adapted to engage a reentrant lip carried at an upper front edge of a gutter.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A support bracket in accordance with claim 5, wherein the support surface means is inclined at an inclination angle of from about 85° to about 60° relative to the mounting surface.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A support bracket in accordance with claim 5 9, wherein the support surface means is inclined relative to the mounting surface at an inclination angle of about 75°.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A support bracket for positioning within a rain gutter that includes an overlying gutter cover panel that extends over an upwardly-facing elongated opening of the gutter to a point adjacent to a gutter upper front edge, to overlie the upwardly-facing elongated gutter opening, said bracket comprising:

a) a unitary, substantially L-shaped body including a first leg having a longitudinal axis and adapted to be oriented substantially vertically when the bracket is installed in a gutter, and a second leg integrally formed with the first leg and adapted to be oriented substantially horizontally when the bracket is installed in a gutter, the first leg including a mounting surface adapted to contact a rear wall of a gutter and a front surface spaced from the mounting surface and connected therewith by a central panel that is substantially parallel to the first leg longitudinal axis and that extends between the mounting surface and the front surface;

b) at least one first bore extending through the first leg toward the mounting surface and generally aligned with the second leg for receiving a bracket fastener

for securing the bracket to a substantially vertical building surface adjacent to a roof edge;

c) at least one second bore extending into the second leg for receiving a cover panel fastener for securing a front edge of the an overlying gutter cover panel to the bracket;

d) engagement means carried by the second leg for engaging and supporting a front wall portion of a gutter, the second leg including a stop surface for abutment with and for positioning relative to the bracket of a front edge of the overlying gutter cover panel, wherein the stop surface is positioned below an opening of the at least one second bore; and

e) upwardly-facing, flat support surface means carried by the first leg for engaging and for supporting a rear surface portion of the overlying gutter cover panel, wherein the support surface means is a surface inclined in a downward direction from a plane defined by the mounting surface and extending toward the gutter front wall engagement means.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A support bracket in accordance with claim 9, including at least one aperture in the bracket body and extending transversely relative to a substantially vertical plane passing through the first and second legs for receiving a fastener for fastening an end cap relative to the bracket.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A support bracket in accordance with claim 10, wherein the at least one bracket body aperture is positioned in the central panel of the first leg.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A support bracket in accordance with claim 10, wherein the at least one bracket body aperture is positioned in a central panel of the second leg.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A support bracket in accordance with claim 10, wherein at least one bracket body aperture is positioned in the first leg, and at least one bracket body aperture is positioned in the second leg.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A support bracket in accordance with claim 9, including a contact surface carried by the second leg between the first leg and the engagement means for contact with an inturned end of the overlying gutter cover panel, wherein the contact surface includes a stop for engagement with an edge of the gutter cover panel.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (canceled)